

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a granular organic acid salt ~~product~~animal feed supplement, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) ~~adding to~~combining in a reaction vessel an inert carrier;
 - (b) ~~adding to the reaction vessel and~~ a liquid organic acid which is substantially absorbed by the carrier;
 - (eb) adding to the reaction vessel an inorganic base which reacts with the organic acid in an exothermic reaction to produce a granular organic acid salt ~~product~~animal feed supplement; and
 - (dc) allowing the organic acid salt ~~product~~animal feed supplement to dry without the use of additional sources of heat.
2. (Previously deleted)
3. (Previously amended) A process as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating the steps of adding the organic acid and adding the base.
4. (Currently amended) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of ~~of~~ a plant material, silica gel, and combinations of the plant material and silica gel.
5. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the organic acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic, ascorbic, citric, formic, fumaric, lactic, and propionic acids.
6. (Currently amended) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the base ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides.
7. (Currently amended) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the base ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of alkaline-earth metal bases.

8. (Currently amended) A process as defined in claim 7, wherein the alkaline-earth metal bases ~~comprise~~ are selected from the group consisting of oxides of alkaline-earth metals.
9. (Currently amended) A process as defined in claim 8, wherein the oxides of alkaline-earth metals ~~comprise~~ are selected from the group consisting of calcium hydroxide and calcium oxide.
10. (Currently canceled)
11. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of carrier to organic acid is in the range of between about 1 : 1 and about 3 : 1.
12. (Original) A process as defined in claim 1, wherein the amount of base used is sufficient to react substantially completely with the amount of acid.
13. (Original) A process as defined in claim 3, wherein the steps are repeated until the weight ratio of organic salt to carrier is in the range of between about 1.5 : 1 and about 4 : 1.
14. (Currently added) A process for the preparation of a granular organic acid salt animal feed supplement, comprising the steps of:
- (a) combining in a reaction vessel an inert carrier and a liquid organic acid which is substantially absorbed by the carrier;
 - (b) and then adding to the reaction vessel an organic base, selected from the group consisting of alkali metal bases and alkaline-earth metal bases, which reacts with the organic acid in an exothermic reaction to produce a granular organic acid salt animal feed supplement; and
 - (c) allowing the organic acid salt animal feed supplement to dry without the use of additional sources of heat.

15. (Currently added) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein the weight ratio of carrier to organic acid is in the range of between about 1 : 1 and about 3 : 1.